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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

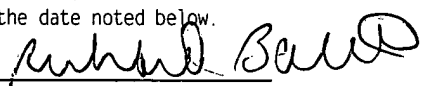


Serial No. : 09/974,511  
Applicants : Masahiro KAWAKAMI et al.  
Filed : October 10, 2001  
For : SMELTING REDUCTION METHOD  
Art Unit : 1742  
Examiner : Melvyn J. Andrews  
Docket No. : 00447CD/HG  
Customer No.: 01933  
Confirmation No.: 8922

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

1742\$  
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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Attorney: Richard S. Barth

Dated: April 21, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

S I R :


Applicants hereby petition for a two-month extension of time for the timely filing of the papers filed concurrently herewith.

Extended time expires **April 25, 2004.**

A check for \$420 is attached to cover the Patent Office fee. If any further fees are required, authorization is given to charge same against Account No. 06-1378.

Respectfully submitted,

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